STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Employment Bulletin

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Governor

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RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT - AUGUST 1990

Total Rhode Island wage and salary jobs rebounded somewhat in August as a result of workers returning to their jobs following the traditional July vacation closings. Although the August job total of 449,400 represented a monthly gain of 1,600, it was 10,700 below the year ago level of 460,100.

Employment in the Goods Producing sector, at 123,200, reflected an increase of 4,200 from July but a decline of 5,900 compared to a year ago. Contract Construction jobs fell to 19,200 in August, a decrease of 200 from last month and 2,700 from the August 1989 total. Reflecting the return of workers from the July vacation period, Manufacturing employment rose by 4,400 over the month; however, at 104,000, this sector showed a reduction of 3,200 jobs from the figure reported a year ago.

The Durable and Nondurable Goods Producing industries posted monthly upturns of 3,100 and 1,300, respectively. Employment in Jewelry-Silverware registered the largest July-August gain (+1,500), followed by Fabricated Metals (+900), Textiles (+700) and the Miscellaneous Manufacturing segment (+600). In addition, smaller monthly increases of 200 each occurred in Nonelectrical Machinery, Chemical Products and Plastics Products while upturns of 100 each were recorded in Lumber/Furniture, Primary Metals, Food-Beverage, Paper Products and Leather Products. The only monthly job declines were evident in Electrical Machinery (-300) and Printing-Publishing (-100). The remaining five industrial categories - three in Durable Goods and two in Nondurable Goods - were unchanged from July.

The August work week averaged 38.8 hours, down 0.4 of an hour from July, but up 0.2 of an hour from a year ago. Production workers averaged $9.41 in August - down 11 cents from July but up 32 cents compared to August 1989.

The number of jobs in the Service Producing sector totalled 326,200 in August, showing a decrease of 2,600 from the prior month and 4,800 from the year ago level. The most substantial monthly declines occurred in Services and overall Government employment. The former segment fell by 1,400 (mainly due to education-related losses), while the latter dropped by 1,100 jobs.

A reduction of 300 was reported in Wholesale/Retail Trade for the month of August. In contrast, Finance/Insurance/Real Estate employment advanced 200 from its July level while job levels in Transportation/Public Utilities were unchanged.

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell by half a percentage point - from the July estimate of 7.2 percent to August's level of 6.7 percent. The state's unadjusted unemployment rate dropped to 6.0 percent in August from an estimated 7.2 percent the prior month. Correspondingly, the jobless total decreased to 31,500 in August from the July figure of 37,700. One year ago the seasonally adjusted and unadjusted rates were placed at 4.1 percent and 3.8 percent, respectively, while the number of unemployed stood at 20,200.

Nationally, the seasonally adjusted rate rose to 5.6 percent in August from the previous month's estimate of 5.5 percent. The U.S. unadjusted rate fell by one-tenth of a percent - from 5.5 percent in July to 5.4 percent in August.

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYENT AWARENESS MONTH

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Since 1945, Congress has annually saluted the achievements of people with disabilities in their jobs and has emphasized the goal of full integration of persons with disabilities into the workforce.

On this 46th observance, RI Department of Employment and Training Director, John S. Renza wishes to commend the record of many Rhode Island employers who have taken a positive approach in hiring and retaining workers with disabilities.

During fiscal year 1990, a total of 1,257 handicapped individuals sought employment through the Department of Employment and Training's statewide system of local offices. Approximately 21% of them (259) were placed in jobs. For the past 46 years, Job Service has accentuated the positive - that a worker's ability is far more important than his or her limitations.

Employers seeking to hire qualified handicapped workers are encouraged to list their job openings with the Job Bank, 277-3588 or any DET local office. They are listed in the blue pages of the telephone directory under Employment and Training Department.

GOOD NEWS FOR RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYERS!

As you know the Department of Employment & Training has been collecting quarterly wage records from all Rhode Island employers since the first quarter of 1988. Legislation was recently passed by the General Assembly which revised the Temporary Disability Insurance (TDI) benefit formula to allow this wage information to be used to compute benefits for new TDI claims filed for injuries or illnesses which occur on or after October 7, 1990. This is similar to what is already being done for Unemployment Insurance claims.

How will this benefit you as an employer? In most cases you will no longer be required to send in wage information on your former employees when they file a claim for TDI benefits. The wage data necessary to compute the claim should already be on our files.

While we will no longer be requesting wage information in most cases, the claimant's last employer will be asked to verify separation information given by the claimant. Specifically, you will only be asked to confirm the claimant's last day of work and whether or not the injury or illness was work related.

This change will speed up the claims process and reduce your paperwork burden. While we expect the conversion to be a smooth one, should you have any questions concerning the reduced reporting requiremnt please call the Temporary Disability Insurance Division at (401)-277-3630.

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Employment and unemployment statistics contained in this report were compiled by THE DEPT OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING in cooperation with the BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U S DEPT OF LABOR For additional information contact LABOR MARKET INFORMATION at 277-3706 TDD Voice: 277-3718

RHODE ISLAND
Labor Force Statistics
(In Thousands)

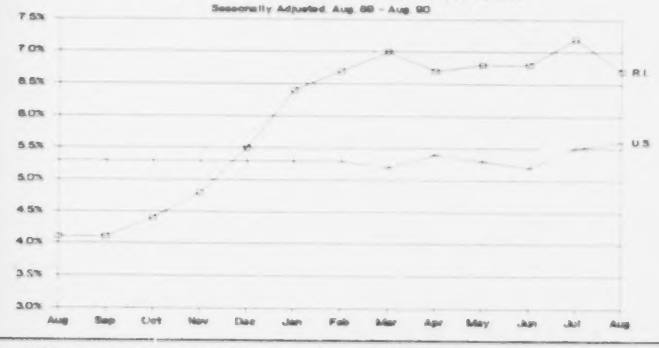
	Aug 1990	July* 1990	Aug * 1989
Civilian Labor Force	521 4	525 9	532 4
Resident Employment	489 8	488 3	512 2
Unemployment	31 5	37 7	20 2
Rate (Unadjusted)	6 0	7 2	3 8
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	6 7	7 2	4 1

*Revised

UNITED STATES
Labor Force Statistics
(In Thousands)

	Aug 1990	July 1990	Aug 1989
Civilian Labor Force	126,012	126,900	125,444
Resident Employment	119,174	119,954	119,092
Unemployment	6,837	6,945	6,352
Rate (Unadjusted)	5 4	5 5	5 1
Seasonally Adjusted Rate	5 6	5 5	5 3

R.I. and U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES



TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands)			NET CHANGE FROM	
	Aug 1990	July 1990	Aug 1989	July 1990	Aug 1989
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT	449 4	447 8	460 1	+ 1600	- 10700
GOODS PRODUCING	123 2	119 0	129 1	+ 4200	- 5900
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	19 2	19 4	21 9	- 200	- 2700
MANUFACTURING	104 0	99 6	107 2	+ 4400	- 3200
SERVICE PRODUCING	326 2	328 8	331 0	- 2600	- 4800
TRANS & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15 7	15 7	15 4*	-	+ 300
TRADE (Wholesale & Retail)	106 3	106 6	109 0	- 300	- 2700
FINANCE, INS & REAL ESTATE	26 7	26 5	27 1	+ 200	- 400
SERVICE (Miscellaneous)	121 8	123 2	122 5	- 1400	- 700
GOVERNMENT	55 7	56 8	57 0	- 1100	- 1300

*Labor Dispute

ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS AND HOURS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN R.I.

AUGUST 1990

	EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands)	PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES Weekly Earnings	Weekly Hours	Hourly Earnings
ALL MANUFACTURING	104 0	365 11	38 8	9 41
DURABLE MFG	70 4	356 90	38 5	9 27
LUMBER/FURNITURE	3 0	363 29	33 7	10 78
STONE-CLAY-GLASS	1 4	544 35	43 1	12 63
PRIMARY METALS	4 0	385 56	40 5	9 52
FABRICATED METALS	8 4	349 98	38 8	9 02
NONELECTRIC MACH	5 6	483 78	42 4	11 41
ELECTRICAL MACH	5 8	333 06	36 6	9 10
TRANS EQUIPMENT	7 9	437 58	37 4	11 70
INSTRUMENTS	7 0	432 81	44 3	9 77
JEWELRY-SILVERWARE	21 1	298 37	38 4	7 77
MISCELLANEOUS MFG	6 2	276 35	34 5	8 01
NONDURABLE MFG	33 6	383 55	39 5	9 71
FOOD-BEVERAGE	2 7	342 61	36 8	9 31
TEXTILES	9 2	344 25	40 5	8 50
APPAREL	1 7	242 63	31 8	7 63
PAPER PRODUCTS	2 2	384 98	41 8	9 21
PRINTING-PUBLISHING	6 6	494 00	39 3	12 57
CHEMICAL PRODUCTS	2 9	514 31	42 4	12 13
RUBBER PRODUCTS	0 8	403 61	39 3	10 27
PLASTICS PRODUCTS	5 8	411 93	39 8	10 35
LEATHER PRODUCTS	1 7	259 62	39 1	6 64

Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic and Armed Services personnel are excluded from the Establishment Employment figures Current month figures are PRELIMINARY Prior month and year figures are REVISED